

Bloomfield Citizen.

WEEKLY JOURNAL

PUBLISHED BY
WILLIAM A. RITSCHER, Jr.
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THE CITIZEN solicits contributions from the general public on any subject—political, religious, educational, or social—as long as they do not contain any personal attacks.

All communications must be accompanied by the writer's name, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith.

Advertisements for insertion in the current week must be in hand not later than Friday noon.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 1904.

THE ISSUE OF THE HOUR.

This town has been thrown into a state of agitation again by the precipitation of a movement to secure the annexation of Bloomfield to Newark. It is proposed to endeavor to have the question of annexation voted on by the people at a special election on Tuesday, April 5. There remains yet two weeks before the election for a general discussion of the question at issue and the columns of the CITIZEN are freely open to all who may desire to express their views, either pro or con, on the subject. In the mass of correspondence published this week the CITIZEN makes no indorsement as yet of any of the sentiments therein expressed. This non-committal attitude is assumed for the express purpose of encouraging full and free discussion. It is realized on our part that this issue of annexation is a matter of most serious import. Public school education is involved and appears to be one of the paramount reasons for dreading annexation.

This perpetual disturbing of public peace and tranquility by the agitation of this question of annexation should be stopped. If it is defeated by popular vote it is an issue that must be kept in abeyance until the greater Newark scheme, which involves the taking in of all of the territory east of the Orange Mountains is ready for consummation. But as some of our citizens have deemed it expedient to urge on the part of Bloomfield a premature step in the direction of the creation of greater Newark, it is incumbent upon them to make known as fully and as widely as possible the reasons that have prompted them to take the action they have taken.

It will be conceded that no private interests should be permitted to stand in the way of a general public benefit, but on the other hand it must be borne in mind that when a score or less of people inaugurate a movement that effects the entire population of the town, the responsibility for giving explicit reasons for such a course is greatly enhanced.

Let those asking information be informed to the fullest extent possible. Let everybody that has anything to say on the subject say it.

Larger Appropriation Carried.

In Glen Ridge at the school election Tuesday night, there were two appropriation tickets voted for, and this was the only contest. One was for \$11,500 and the other for \$13,000. The latter won by a vote of 66 to 33. The supporters of the low appropriation made the fight with a view to keeping the tax rate down, but the opposition declared that the appropriation of \$13,000 was an absolute necessity. The members of the Board of Education elected were H. Crittenden Harris, William H. Sayre, Jr., and Harris H. Uhler, for three years; Ernest E. Bloom, John R. Phillips and George W. Reynolds, for two years.

Empire Theatre.

No patron of the Empire Theatre, Newark, will fail to attend the performance of "A Midnight Marriage," in which Florence Hindley is starring, under the direction of Forrester & Mitten, next week, March 21. The prominence of the star, as well as the startling sensational situations and climaxes of the play, make this attraction one of unusual prominence. The famous New York subway scene, which, by the way, is unique, in that it will be the first production of this engineering feat, and the Bowery concert hall, are said to be among the most superb scenic and mechanical effects ever exhibited on the stage. Matinees Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.

Park Choral Union.

The Park Choral Union will render the sacred cantata: "Faith Triumphant, or The Healing of Naaman," in the Park M. E. Church to-morrow evening. The union will be assisted by Mrs. Nellie Bennett Fugel, soprano, as "Queen of Syria;" Miss Florence Janet Hunt, mezzo-soprano, as "Wife of Naaman;" Miss Ida Hobbs, contralto, as "Hebrew Maid;" Mr. Conrad Sheers, tenor, as "Iran;" Mr. Wm. Gordon Gaunt, bass, as "Naaman;" Mr. Robert Warnock, conductor.

Letters From the People

A Dirge.
TO BE GIVEN AWAY
To Newark,
Our Historic Town of
BLOOMFIELD—

But keep it quiet—
Only a SELECT FEW are to know of it—
The LOVERS OF THE TOWN,
The COMMON PEOPLE,
The TAXPAYERS,

are to fall in and make no objection, but quietly permit a few privileged citizens to give our town away—and then we shall become the proud residents of a City and we can have our mail sent to us at

NEWARK, N. J.,

with Bloomfield Station in the corner, and if any one of our citizens with political ambition desires the nomination for Sheriff, as a resident of Newark, no objection can be made; but as a resident of Bloomfield that is not possible—and again, we want a City Hall. We shall be privileged to chip in and help pay for the one now in course of construction at Newark (estimated cost of some \$2,200,000), but we can call it OUR NEW CITY HALL. What a delight that will be, and that is not all.

We want to do away with GRADE CROSSINGS: that is provided for, as we all know the tracks are being elevated at Broad street at the D. L. and W. crossing—if in Newark, that will help us! At any rate, we can help pay for it. Estimated cost to Newark, \$500,000; and still again, if we have sons or daughters in the High School we can help the Public Service Corporation by sending them over its lines to school; and another advantage, we shall be represented by an Alderman, perhaps two, and what an influence for good upon a great City—one or two representatives in a board of thirty—immense power. WONDERFUL influence. Surely the fall can wag the dog, and an opportunity of this character should not be LOST, and with such influence we can take MANY steps BACKWARD in Public Improvements. Our streets, sewers and lighting will have IMMEDIATE and UNDIVIDED attention. Our Excise Laws, and immediate supervision of same, of course, will be respected! And we need not hesitate to predict that as a half-way place it will be WONDERFULLY CONVENIENT for many travelers. In regard to the Water Supply, we have a FEW men of BUSINESS CAPACITY, INTELLIGENCE and ABILITY, that we simply MUST go to Newark to find the men needed to help us with this momentous question. But that will be fair, for we may be able to give them a sheriff, if they will only come to our help on the Water Contract.

ANNEX, OF COURSE we WILL ANNEX, and why keep it quiet? Let ALL Jersey know (from the pier-fish shores of the Hudson to the shady banks of the Delaware), that we are NOT COMPETENT or CAPABLE to manage the affairs of the OLD Town; that, as the Old Maid said, the RIGHT man is not here and we must look ELSEWHERE, even to NEWARK, for HIM. Sell out? NO, but give the Town AWAY. WHAT does that matter if we have GOOD ROADS now, FINE School Buildings and a System of Education that CANNOT be EXCELLED? INDIVIDUAL PRIDE in our Town does NOT count. EASY EFFORT and ANTICIPATED FUTURE ENDEAVOR must NOT hinder. Put a tag on us and send us to NEWARK, all wrapped NICELY and fixed up BEAUTIFULLY and ask to be TAKEN IN. How much these TWO words express. ANNEX? OF COURSE! ANNEX.

BURRAH for ANNEXATION! Good-bye to OLD BLOOMFIELD. ALL HAIL TO NEWARK.

Bloomfield is contiguous to Newark 1,200 feet. Bloomfield will be ENTITLED to one, POSSIBLY to two Aldermen in a Board of thirty. Annual city expense (Newark), \$6,500,000; per capita, \$23.77. Annual town expense (Bloomfield), \$150,000; per capita, \$13.64. (Estimated cost of new city hall in Newark \$2,200,000. Estimated cost to Newark for track elevation at D. L. and W. crossing \$600,000. Just a simple lover of

OLD BLOOMFIELD.

Mr. Oakes and the Schools.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CITIZEN:

Sir: Thomas Oakes gives as one reason for going to Newark the expense attending the running of our public schools. Did he ever stop to consider that Newark has one of the most expensive systems in the State? The Board of Education of that city is continually asking for more money to run the public schools, and when it is voted, instead of using the money for what it was intended for, up go the salaries of all head teachers, and useless and expensive offices are created.

The Superintendent of Public Schools of that city is now receiving a salary of \$4,500 per year, and the Board of Education has under consideration the matter of adding \$1,000 more to it. Besides he has a number of assistants in the way of clerks, and a score of supervisors to do the work for which the superintendent is paid. Then, again, there is talk of adding \$500 each to two head principals, who are already drawing large salaries.

Some of the papers of Newark have had the temerity to come out and oppose these advances, and the affair has been postponed for the present. A more expensive Board of Education never conducted the school system of that city. It would be well for Mr. Oakes to look into these things more closely before making the charges he did last week at the convocation of some of the so-called dissatisfied citizens. L.

James T. Boyd Council, Junior Order of American Mechanics has an enrollment of 300 members. At the conclusion of the Council meeting Thursday night a general discussion of the annexation question was indulged in. Only two members of the order favored annexation, while the overwhelming balance was enthusiastic for Bloomfield and Independence.

Some Reflections on the Situation.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CITIZEN:

Sir: As one who attended the meeting of the Board of Trade Thursday night, I was deeply interested in the proceedings. I was much surprised to see the members take up the discussion of the subject of annexation, when the notice of the meeting referred to referendum only. However, it may be far better that this annexation question be freely discussed. As a taxpayer interested in town affairs, particularly schools, I was not favorably impressed with Mr. Garabrant's remarks in favor of annexation to Newark. I have two daughters attending our schools—one now in the High School, and the other I hope to see go through the High School of Bloomfield—not that of Newark. I have given this matter considerable thought, and Mr. Garabrant puts one in mind of crossing a bridge before they get to it. This town, so far as I am able to learn from what I consider reliable authority, is in no worse condition financially than all the other towns about us: for instance, Orange, South Orange, East Orange, Glen Ridge, and other places.

It really seems like a disgrace to the men of this town to have to admit we have not the ability to manage our own municipal affairs. This school question is an important one. I think, personally, that there are too many up-to-date methods employed in our course of instruction. If some of our manual training, cookery, etc., were cut out the results would be better when the graduated pupils start out to make their own way in the world. It seems, however, that since it is the rule to have this manual training, etc., and that the State requires it under certain conditions, that it may be the best that we maintain our extravagant up-to-date methods. This being so, I am willing to pay my share of taxes, and, in fact, more, if necessary, rather than have our schools deteriorate, and I do not think there was any one at the Board of Trade meeting who wants to see our schools go below the present standard, not even Mr. Garabrant, and wish to present here a few facts not generally known:

First—Our school buildings, on an average, are superior to the Newark buildings; a fact easily proven.

Second—That the Newark Board of Education will NOT maintain a High School here in Bloomfield, even if Mayor Doremus did lead Mr. Garabrant to think so. We must not lose sight of the fact that Bloomfield is nearer to the High School of Newark than some parts of that city from which scholars attend. Why should they maintain a High School for so few scholars as this town has, when they cannot accommodate the children of Newark to-day? This is a fact to be easily proven, if Mr. Garabrant will only investigate further.

Third—It is also well known, and easily ascertained, if one watches the school news of the Newark papers, that POLITICS of the RANKEST KIND prevails in the Newark Board of Education, and enters into every detail of school work, even to the appointment of a janitor.

Fourth—That the personal exchange of views between parents and teachers, which is possible here in this town, is almost impossible under the Newark school system. My experience shows me that this is no thing to look over lightly.

Fifth—That the primary and grammar grades of Newark have to meet in half-day sessions, and be housed in sheet-iron buildings, etc. Keep this in mind. Newark for some time has taken care of its own children. Where are we coming in? Mayor Doremus is a fine gentleman, but he is not the whole thing. He has political aspirations. Who knows but what he will try and advance to be Governor of the State? And why should we base the belief on what he says that the city will do for us better, or even as well, as we can do for ourselves?

The argument is used by the annexationists that Newark has water wasted (running over the Macopin dam) that would supply this town and more, and it would be a saving of at least \$20,000 to Newark, a saving of \$20,000 more on our incidental expenses, making a total of \$40,000 which Newark would give us the benefit of. This sounds real nice from a smooth, fluent talker like Mr. Garabrant, and we will admit it, keeping in mind, however, that on item of teachers alone we pay \$41,000. The same teachers in Newark (to maintain schools on the present basis) would be paid \$55,000, making it necessary for Newark to use \$14,000 of this \$40,000 pick-up. And where, oh where is our fire protection, our police and roads, and other absolute necessities, coming in?

It happens that in my school career I was a pupil in both Newark and East Orange schools, and I know that the East Orange school was far better than any of three Newark schools I attended. I doubt if conditions have changed very materially, even if Mayor Doremus says Newark schools are as good as Plainfield, Montclair, etc. We do not all expect to go to the exceptionally good technical school Mr. Garabrant refers to.

I notice that Mr. Garabrant referred to the necessity of keeping the roads in good repair, but he did not say what Mayor Doremus says about this matter. Mr. Garabrant had better drive his team around the outskirts of Newark, and then come to another meeting and tell us what he thinks about them.

On other questions I could say more. Mr. Editor, but I think it is the duty of every citizen of this town to carefully look before we leap (into Newark to say). My advice to Mr. Garabrant would be to think also. See if there is not some politics in this game that he is being used for. I am no politician, far from it; go to New York every day, but I feel suspicious from the sentiment and feeling I found at the Board of Trade meeting Thursday night that there is politics in this annexation scheme, and would not want to see Mr. Garabrant made a tool for some one else. I have always thought well of Mr. Garabrant, although he is a stranger to me. W. H. D.

Social Event.

Mr. Archie Lynch gave a reception at his home on Broad street Wednesday evening. Games and dancing were indulged in, after which refreshments were served. Among the guests present were the Misses Jessie Duncanson from Brooklyn, Ida Albee, Cora Wilson, Wynne Edwin, Carrie Clark, Florence Pearson and Etta Brown of East Orange, The Messrs. J. S. A. Lehman, William Dawkins, F. B. Wilson, Wm. J. Shears, Albert Dawkins and John Tideback.

A Wrong Line of Attack.

One of the arguments in favor of annexation on which much stress is laid, and which, if not closely investigated, is likely to mislead some people to vote for annexation on misrepresented evidence, is in effect as follows: Through the medium of the Essex County Building and Loan Association this town is being built up with a small and cheap class of dwellings, and the tax revenue from this class of houses does not meet the cost of educating the children that the owners of these houses send to the public schools, leaving nothing whatever to be applied to other town purposes. Perhaps the Watessing district is about the best locality in this town to apply this argument. In that district the small homes largely predominate, and it is likely that in such streets as Myrtle street, Willow street, Lake street and Orange street are built up with houses that do not average over \$1,000 in tax valuations, and these streets probably have a juvenile population that fills Watessing school. Now the Watessing school has an enrollment of 328 pupils, and taking the per capita cost of education here at \$36, that school costs to maintain it \$8,448. Half of this sum is paid by the State. The property-owners in the streets contributing to the Watessing school pay a much larger sum in taxes than \$4,224, so that they pay much more than the cost of their school. Myrtle street alone probably pays \$1,800 in taxes.

But, outside of the house-owners in the Watessing school district there is a factor in taxation, and which as a factor it does not entail any cost upon the public schools, it turns in more than sufficient revenue to defray the cost to the town of maintaining the Watessing school. There are within the boundaries of the Watessing school district six factories which pay a total tax of \$6,574, or more than enough to pay the cost to the town of maintaining Watessing school.

There is in the same district a large amount of unimproved property on which taxes are paid, and which is of no expense to the schools. The effort to demonstrate that the Essex County Building and Loan Association is a detriment to the town will not prove acceptable, and the annexation people are making a mistake in pursuing that line of argument.

The Essex County Building and Loan Association is an element for good in the community. It encourages home ownership, and home ownership improves citizenship. Perhaps the owners of these small homes may be indiscreet in their zeal to keep up the attendance at the public schools, but the zeal is pardonable, and the error, if it be one, will not be corrected by annexation.

Advocates of Annexation.

The following is a copy of the advertisement of the annexation bill and the signers to it:

Notice is hereby given that the subscribers intend to apply to the present Legislature of this State for the passage of a bill, the general object of which will be to annex to and make a part of the city of Newark, and county of Essex, all that territory embraced within the bounds of the town of Bloomfield, in the county of Essex.

Amzi Dodd, Thomas Oakes, G. Lee Stout, Theodore H. Ward, David G. Garabrant, James C. Beach, John A. Lawrence, Wm. A. Baldwin, Benjamin Haskell, James H. Moore, George E. Sedell, Henry P. Dodd, Charles L. Seibert, Fred Storm, Jr., Joseph Fronapfel, Hubert J. Ashley, Halsey M. Barrett, Thomas Cadmus.

Dated March 11, 1904.

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FOR \$8.00.

We are talking about PERFECTION GAS WATER HEATERS. They are all the name implies.

Double copper tube—brass heads—water exposed to double fire—no rusty water—no odor—quick action. \$8.00 includes Heater and free connections to both gas and water pipes.

Gas Department,
Public Service Corporation of New Jersey,
458 BLOOMFIELD AVE., Montclair, N. J.

THE two great questions before the people are: What do you think of Annexation? and, What do you think of

The Park Store

We are using all our time and strength trying to make you think well of the store, whatever you think of the other.

Our Butter and Coffee are being talked about in a way that is very gratifying to us.

Everything new and up to date.

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Choice Groceries,
170 Broad Street, Cor. Belleville Ave.,
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Telephone 128.

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Expert Watch, Clock, Jewelry and Spectacle Repairing.
Drop us a card for the clock that won't go.

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YOU SEE IT PAYS

to please the people, and we are doing it three hundred days in the year. That's the reason you see so many more Coal wagons with the name of THE BLOOMFIELD COAL & SUPPLY CO. on them than you do of any other Coal dealer. Try a ton of PITTSBURGH at 6.25.

Bloomfield Coal and Supply Co.
324 Glenwood Avenue.
Telephone, Bloomfield 154.

HOUSES WANTED TO RENT.

We are reviving our books for spring renting; property-owners in Bloomfield, Roselle and the Oranges will have a chance to secure good tenants by informing us now what they will have to rent this spring, as we have a large number of applicants who wish to make a change.

W. H. STEVENSON'S AGENCY,
561 Bloomfield Ave. (Centre).
BLOOMFIELD, N. J.
Telephone 9-F.

BLOOMFIELD
Savings Institution,

Office: 7 Broad Street,

Bloomfield, N. J.

SURPLUS, - - \$72,000.00

NEW ACCOUNTS RECEIVED

Interest Dividends Declared Jan. 1st and July 1st.



Thank You
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